

Assemblyman

David F. Gantt

Reports to the People

SUMMER 2011

Dear Neighbor:

Once again, it was an absolute pleasure to represent you in the New York State Legislature as your Assemblyman. This year has been one of the most productive years that I can remember. I have worked diligently and consistently to ensure that you and all New Yorkers are getting your fair representation in Albany.

During these tough fiscal times I supported a property tax cap for all New Yorkers. In addition, I have worked with my Assembly colleagues and the Governor to ensure that the Rochester School Modernization project is not stifled by a technicality in the way in which the State Department of Education interprets the law.

I have supported legislation that would ensure the academic success of the SUNY/CUNY educational system. This legislation would provide tuition assistance credits to help keep college in reach for low and middle income students. I supported legislation to protect police officers and first responders by requiring motorists to move over. I also supported legislation that protects crime victims and increases charter school transparency and oversight. It is my duty, and the duty of my colleagues in the legislature, to ensure that the citizens of New York are protected and represented equally and fairly.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you in Albany.

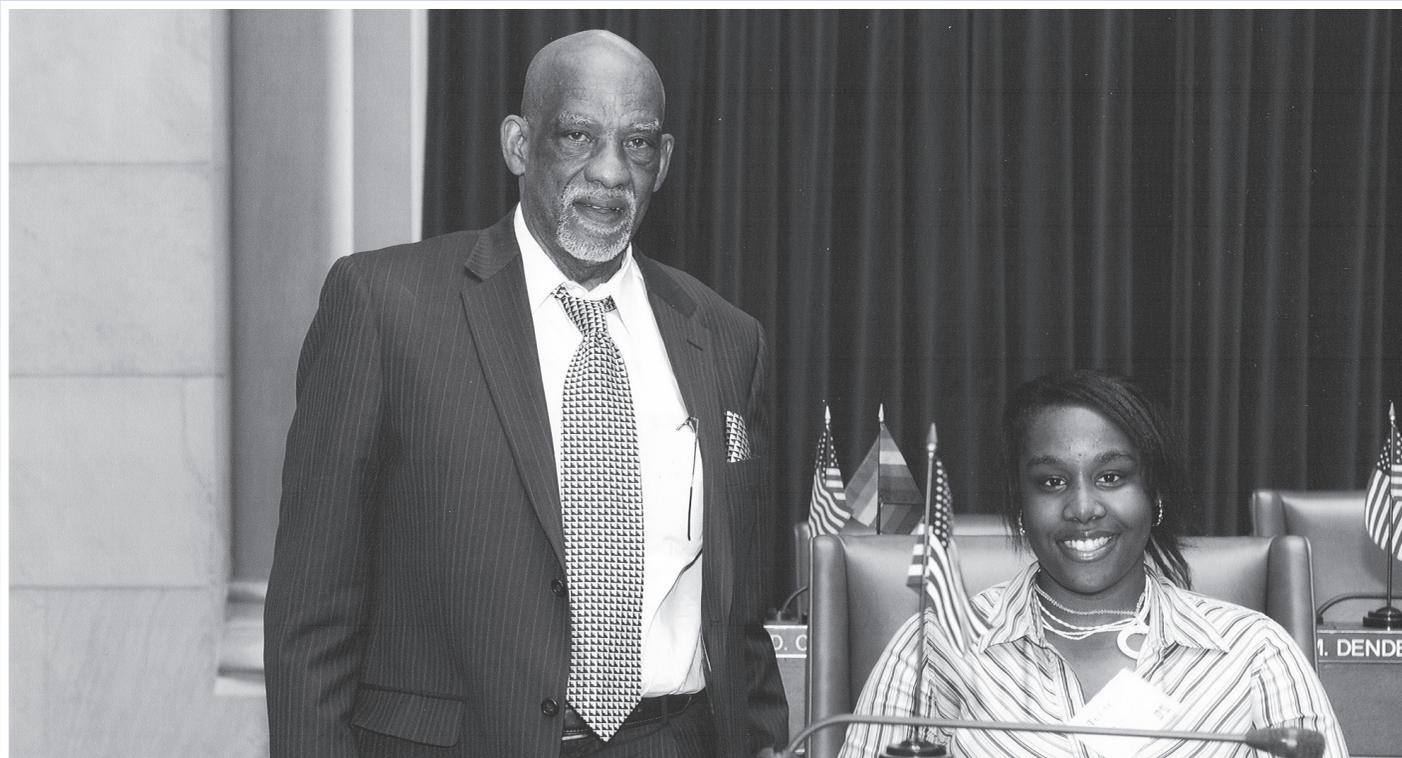
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David F. Gantt".

David F. Gantt

Member of Assembly

Representing the 133rd District



Assemblyman Gantt with Tenacious Jackson. Tenacious is a Rochester student who attended the 11th Annual Students Inside Albany Conference. She was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation.

Assemblyman David F. Gantt

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Gantt supports legislation that creates primary offense of texting while driving



Transportation Committee Chair David Gantt announced the passage of legislation that would enhance highway and traffic safety by making the use of portable electronic devices while driving a primary offense.

The measure changes current law that requires drivers to commit another violation before being stopped for using electronic devices.

“Two years after a statewide ban on the use of portable electronic devices while driving, distracted driving continues to be a major problem on our roadways,” said Gantt. “By making texting while driving a primary offense, this legislation will deter motorists from engaging

in this dangerous activity, and make our streets and highways safer.”

“Text messaging while driving is unsafe and illegal,” said Gantt. “This legislation builds on our commitment to increase safety on our roads by allowing law enforcement officers to enforce the ban.”

“Two years after a statewide ban on the use of portable electronic devices while driving, distracted driving continues to be a major problem on our roadways.”

— Assemblyman Gantt

broadband personal communication device, two-way messaging device, or any portable computing device to compose, send, read, view, access, browse, transmit, save or retrieve email, text messages or other electronic data while driving. It also bans viewing, taking or transmitting images, or playing games on such devices while driving. Motorists face a maximum of \$150 for the violation.

Gantt ensures the passage of the “Complete Streets” legislation to address the mobility needs of all transportation users

Transportation Committee Chair David Gantt announced the approval of “complete streets” legislation (A.8366), which requires consideration be given to the access and mobility needs of all users of our transportation network.

“As we strive to reduce air pollution in our communities, become more energy efficient and less dependent on foreign oil, we must provide our residents with a more accommodating transportation infrastructure,” said Gantt. “This bill would help make our transportation networks more accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and mass transit riders of all ages and abilities.”

“With this legislation, future state and local transportation projects will be planned in a way that is more mindful of all users of our roadways,” said Gantt. “Thanks to this new approach to road design, New Yorkers will be able to realize the convenience, energy savings and health benefits that all forms of mobility have to offer.”

Under the bill, all Department of Transportation (DOT) projects, as well as local projects overseen by DOT which receive both state and federal funding, would be required to consider the transportation needs of all travelers through the use of complete streets design. These features include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, lane striping, crosswalks and bicycle lanes, and could vary depending on rural, suburban or urban locations.

The bill also ensures that factors such as land use, population density, traffic volume, community support, public safety and funding availability are taken into account when determining the use of the complete streets design.



Assemblyman Gantt and Luis Arroyo, a student at Franklin High School and the recipient of the Monroe County 2010 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

Gantt supports property tax cap and mandate relief package

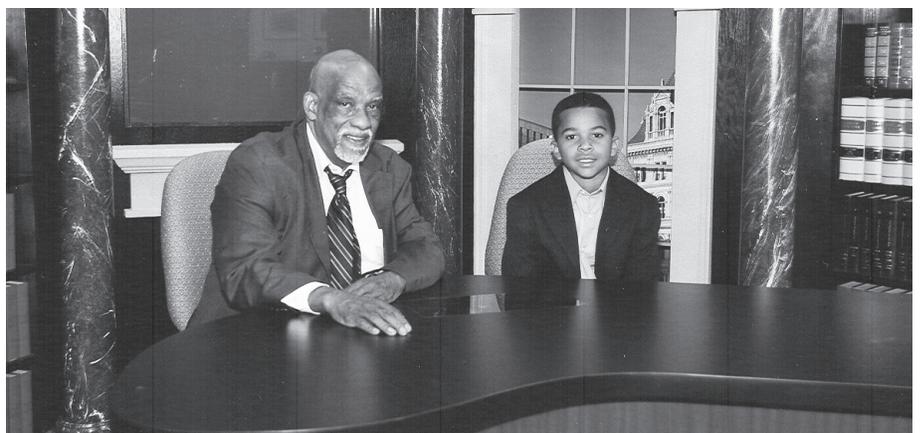
Gantt supports the passage of the Affordable Housing Act (A.8518) that would provide relief for working families across the state by capping growth in local property tax levies at two percent. The legislation also includes significant mandate relief for local government and school districts.

“Hardworking men and women across this state pay some of the highest property taxes in the nation and need real relief in order to be able to stay, work and raise their families in New York State,” said Gantt. “The combination of this property tax cap and significant mandate relief for municipalities will provide real savings for taxpayers while also encouraging governments to rein in spending.”

The measure would require school districts and local government enti-

ties – including towns, cities, villages, counties, fire districts and all special districts, except New York City – to cap increases in real property taxes at two percent or the rate of inflation, over the previous year’s levy, whichever is less. For school districts, the two-percent cap may be exceeded with 60 percent of a public vote. For local governments, the cap may be exceeded with the approval of 60 percent of the governing body. If a local government or school district is under the limit, up to 1.5 percent of the previous year’s levy may be carried over to the next year. In addition, local governments and school districts would be allowed to adjust the tax levy when there is a growth in the property base.

This tax cap would take effect for the 2012 fiscal year for local governments and for the 2012-2013 school budget year.



Assemblyman Gantt and Maurice Reed, a student at Midlakes Elementary School.

Gantt supports the passage of the Innovate NY Fund legislation to boost economy, nurture emerging businesses and create jobs

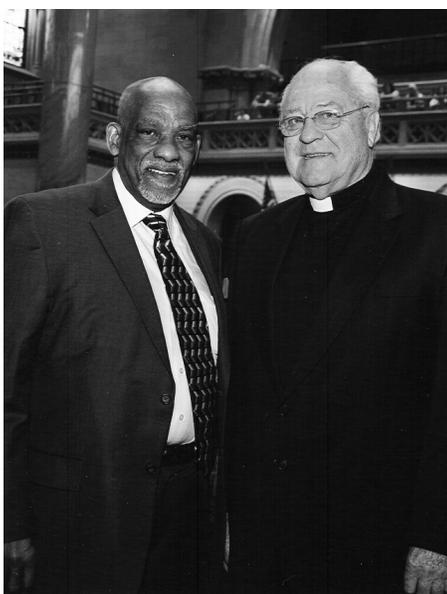
Gantt supports the approval of legislation that would provide \$55.4 million in federal funds available through the State Small Business Credit Initiative to the Innovate NY Fund, the New York State Capital Access Program (CAP) and the Bonding Guarantee Assistance Program.

The bill would establish the "Innovate NY Fund," a new economic development program focused on investing in emerging industries that will fuel economic growth in New York State.

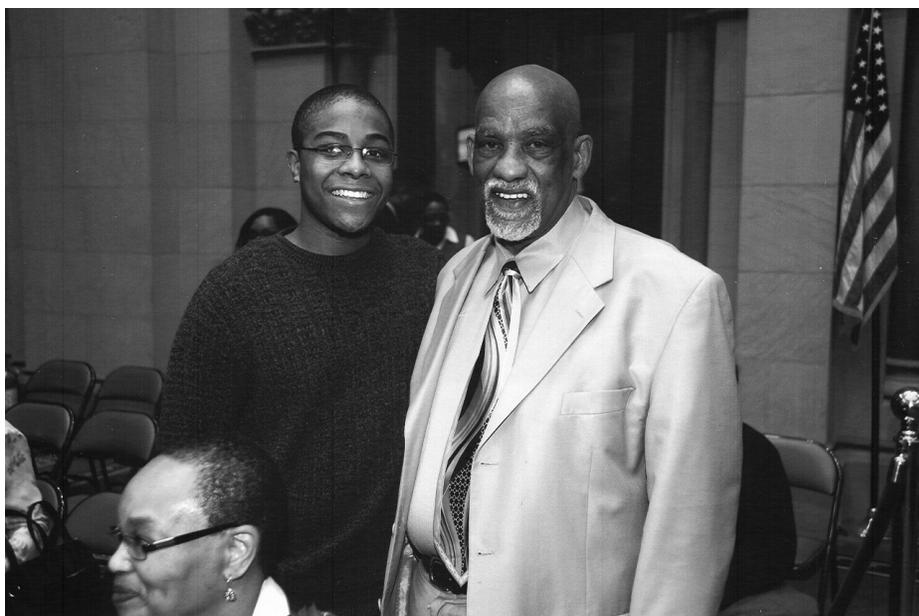
The Innovate NY Fund will help nurture our innovation-based economy by leveraging private-sector investments for the support and development of highly advanced products and technologies in New York State. This new economic development tool will enable our state to provide critical support to emerging businesses that will be producing much-sought-after products and technologies in New York communities using New York workers.

The measure also would increase access to credit for small businesses and manufacturers through the New York State Capital Access Program (CAP).

In addition, this bill would allocate approximately \$10 million to The Bonding Guarantee Assistance Program to provide additional financial backing to guarantee bonds to assist small business and minority-owned or women-owned business enterprises with construction projects.



Assemblyman Gantt and Father Young from the Dimitri House.



Assemblyman Gantt and Christopher Norwood, a student at the University of Rochester.

Gantt congratulates 2011 Black History Contest winners

I believe it is extremely important that students, when learning of the history of the United States, understand the histories of all its people. With this understanding in mind, students must also be aware of the fact that many different heritages have found their home in the United States and that together we have a shared history. It is also important that students understand not only the facts and dates that make American history, but also how history has affected the lives of African-Americans.

Along with my staff, we congratulate Karena Thomas, Jordyn I. Gross, April Jenkins and Momoh Kamara as our 2011 Black History Month Essay Contest winners. Karena Thomas is a 4th grade student in Mrs. Kaulder's class at School #15. Karena wrote her essay on First Lady Michelle Lavaughn Robinson Obama.

Jordyn I. Gross is a 5th grade student

in Mrs. Simmons' class at School #58. She wrote her essay on Susan Elizabeth Frazier. April Jenkins is a 6th grade student in Mr. Shanley's class at School #54. She wrote her essay on Oprah Winfrey. Momoh Kamara is a 7th Grade student at the School of the Arts in Mr. Gilbert's class. He wrote his essay on Martin Luther King Jr.

We admire these students for their efforts in recognizing many of the influential leaders of the past and of today. These students mirror the qualities of fortitude and consistency which define the essence of the Black experience in America. These students will undoubtedly be future leaders of their communities. Again, we salute you and congratulate your families for your efforts. Your shared and sustained commitment to Black History has unselfishly advanced the spirit of the African-American experience.

Gantt supports legislation to prevent abuse and mistreatment of people with disabilities

After completing statewide hearings examining the issue of abuse of individuals with developmental disabilities at group homes and institutions in New York, the Assembly introduced a series of measures to improve the quality of care at these facilities and provide stronger protections for residents.

"The hearings clearly showed New York's system of caring for individuals with developmental disabilities is in dire need of reform," Gantt said. "Governor Cuomo and his administration have begun the process of changing the way New York cares for them. These measures would give providers and individuals the tools they need to ensure the health and safety of people with developmental disabilities."

The four Assembly hearings, held across New York, documented a number of troubling cases of abuse and neglect

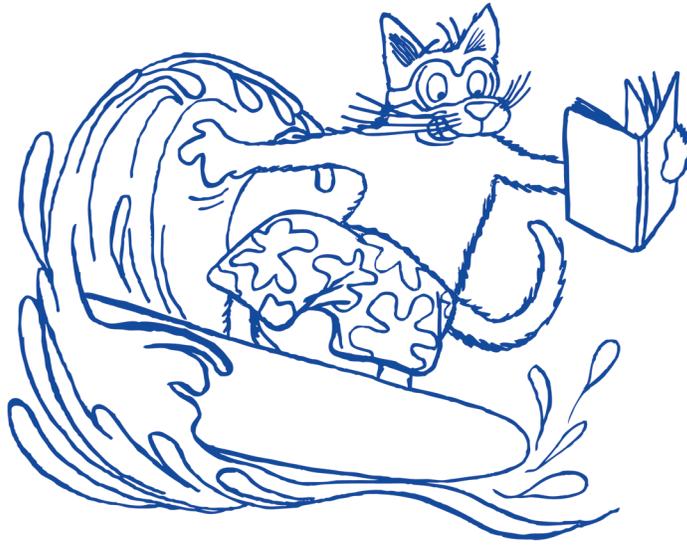
and clearly demonstrated the need for comprehensive reform.

The legislation would create a prior abuse notification system (A.8330, Weisenberg), mandate immediate reporting of violent crimes (A.8325, Ortiz) and standardize training for providers (A.8323, Bing).

While many direct care workers are truly dedicated, clearly there needs to be an investment in the workforce. Bill A.8323 would see to it that all employees and volunteers receive adequate standard training to raise awareness on current and ever-changing policies in regard to abuse prevention and proper reporting.

This package of bills is a comprehensive first step towards providing individuals with developmental disabilities a safe environment, and that the workforce is supported in a way to meet this challenge.

Gantt's Summer Reading Challenge



Just because school is out does not mean we have to stop learning. Studies have shown that children who continue to read during the summer perform better in school in the fall. To encourage our children to continue reading during the summer, I have set up a summer READING CHALLENGE.

I challenge students of all ages to read at least 10 books this summer. When you have read 10 books or more your child will earn a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate. Just fill out the bottom of this form and return it to me with a list and summary of the books you have read and I'll see that your child receives a certificate.

A good source for reading material is the local public library. Thank you and Happy Reading!

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE INFORMATION FORM

School _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name _____

Street Address _____

City or Town _____ Zip Code _____

Names of Books Read (Please attach summaries)



Return Form To:
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Summer Reading Challenge
74 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14605
(585) 454-3670
(585) 454-3788 (FAX)

